

REMARKSIntroduction

Claims 1-28 were pending in the application. Applicants have herein amended claims 1, 5, 12, 21, 24-26, and 28, and have canceled without prejudice claims 2, 4, and 11. Currently pending in the application are claims 1, 3, 5-10, and 12-28, as herein amended.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has required an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) compliant with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which includes a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent, each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed, and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. In accordance with the Examiner's requirement, Applicants submit herewith a compliant supplemental IDS.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 2, 21, 24, 25, 26, and 28 because of informalities. Applicants have canceled claim 2, rendering moot the Examiner's objection to claim 2. Additionally, Applicants have herein amended claims 21, 24, 25, 26, and 28 to overcome the Examiner's objections.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 11-13, and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants have canceled claims 2 and 11 rendering moot the Examiner's rejections of claims 2 and 11. Additionally, Applicants have herein amended claims 12-13 and 26-27. Claim 26 is amended to delete the limitation "after said queues are emptied of all outstanding requests, then reissuing by said ingress ASICs of all previously outstanding requests to said new active central arbiter," thereby removing the Examiner's cause for rejection. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to remove his rejection of and to allow claim 26, as herein amended. Claims 12 and 13, which were rejected because they depend from claim 11, are amended to depend from claim 10, and accordingly inherit all of the limitations of claim 10. Claims 12 and 13 are therefore allowable for the same reason that claim 10 is allowable, as described in further remarks below. Claim 27 was rejected because it depends from claim 26, and accordingly inherits all of the limitations of claim 26. Since claim 26, as herein

amended, is believed to be allowable, claim 27 should be allowable for the same reason. For reasons stated above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to remove his rejections of claims 11-13 and 26-27 and to allow claims 11-13 and 26-27 to pass to issue.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Claim Rejections

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Brewer et al. (U.S. Patent 6,711,357 B1), hereinafter referred to as *Brewer*. Applicants have herein amended independent claim 1 to include the limitation of original claim 4 and have canceled without prejudice claim 4. Claim 1, as herein amended, rewrites original claim 4 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and any intervening claims. Therefore claim 1, as herein amended, is allowable subject matter in accordance with the Examiner's definition. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to remove his rejection of claim 1 and to allow claim 1, as herein amended, to pass to issue.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 3-10 and 14-25 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. As indicated above, Applicants have herein amended claim 1 to rewrite claim 4 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and any intervening claim. Therefore claim 1, as herein amended, is allowable. Applicants have additionally canceled original claim 4, therefore rendering moot the Examiner's objection to claim 4. Claim 5, as amended, and claims 3, 6-10, and 14-25 are dependent either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and accordingly inherit all of the limitations of claim 1 as amended. Because claim 1 is allowable, claims 3, 5-10, and 14-25 should be allowable for the same reason. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to remove his objections to claims 3, 5-10, and 14-25, and to allow claims 3, 5-10, and 14-25 to pass to issue.

Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the claims 1, 3, 5-10, and 12-28, as herein amended, currently pending in the application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

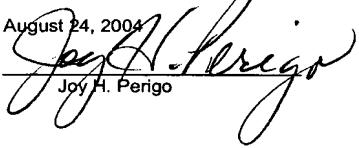
Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. 59182/P015US/10025411 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 24, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV482734593US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

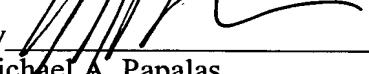
Dated: August 24, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,

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